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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERS JOIN FORCES TO LOBBY CONGRESS  
FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C** – In a strong show of unity, transportation leaders from each of Southern California's six counties that make up the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura) are visiting congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. this week to advocate for 29 priority transportation projects totaling \$11 billion.

"I am so pleased with the consensus and unity we are presenting to Congress," said Hal Bernson, Los Angeles city council member and SCAG president. "This is the first time Southern California has come together to advocate its transportation needs. Our cooperative spirit will go a long way in helping us get these vital transportation priority projects that cover the gamut, from roads to mass transit to harbors."

The transportation officials are seeking to have the projects, contained in the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan prepared by SCAG, included in the next version of the federal Transportation Equity Act, known as TEA-3. Since the early 1990s, Congress has passed various versions of that act, which serves as the federal government's comprehensive transportation funding measure for a range of highway, transit, local road, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Regional transportation officials stressed the importance of Southern California receiving an increased share of its contributions to the Highway Trust Fund. "Our region is, in essence, a "donor state" because we send back more money in taxes to Washington than we get back for transportation projects," said Ron Roberts, Temecula city council member and vice chairman of the Riverside County Transportation Commission.

"Southern California's 17 million people represent the ninth largest economy in the world, and the fourth largest in America after the states of California, Texas and New York. We are sending a powerful message to Congress when it sees that we have come together with a unified voice to address our transportation challenges," said Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga mayor, chairman of Metrolink and a member of the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG).

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Members of the Southern California delegation making the trip include:

- Hal Bernson, Los Angeles city council member, SCAG president, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) chairman and Metrolink board member
- Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga mayor, Metrolink chairman and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) board member
- Ron Roberts, Temecula city council member and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) vice chairman
- Art Brown, Buena Park city council member and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) board member
- Keith Millhouse, Moorpark mayor pro-tem and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) chairman
- Mark Pisano, SCAG executive director
- Roger Snoble, MTA chief executive officer
- Arthur Leahy, OCTA executive director
- Eric Haley, RCTC executive director
- Norm King, SANBAG executive director
- Ginger Gheradi, VCTC executive director
- Tim Jones, Imperial County public works director
- David Solow, Metrolink chief executive officer

“The San Francisco Bay Area has used this approach with some success. We think we can make Congress sit up and take notice of our region’s vital contributions to the national economy, goods movement and transportation,” said MTA CEO Roger Snoble.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with a number of Southland members of Congress as well as key transportation leaders on Capitol Hill during their trip to Washington this week, including:

Rep. Ken Calvert	Rep. Nick Rahall
Rep. Gary Miller	Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard
Rep. Ed Royce	Rep. James Oberstar
Rep. Diane Watson	Rep. Jerry Costello
Rep. Jerry Lewis	Rep. Duke Cunningham
Rep. Joe Baca	Senator Dianne Feinstein
Rep. John Doolittle	Senator Jack Reed
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi	Senator Thomas Carper
Rep. Hilda Solis	Senator Debbie Stabenow

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